# STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2010

(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)

FIDEL A. BERNAL, PC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

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## STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

## **Board of Directors**

Vice-President

Member

Member

Member

James Herman

Bob Marsh

Rex Eby

John Gail

Samson Cowboy

FIDEL A. BERNAL, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

## Independent Auditor's Report

Mr. Hector H Balderas New Mexico State Auditor and Members of the Board Thoreau Water and Sanitation District Thoreau, New Mexico 87323

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities and the budgetary comparisons of the State of New Mexico, Thoreau Water and Sanitation District (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2010, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We also have audited the budgetary comparison presented as supplementary information in the accompanying financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2010. These financial statements are the responsibility of the State of New Mexico, Thoreau Water and Sanitation District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of inaterial misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates inade by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We were unable to obtain sufficiently detailed property records to adequately extend our auditing procedures to utility plant in service and related depreciation expense, which represents 46% of the District's assets.

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had we been able to adequately extend our auditing procedures to utility plant in service and related depreciation expense, or had we been able to satisfy ourselves as to those financial activities by other auditing procedures, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the District as of June 30, 2010, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above presents fairly, the budgetary comparison for the proprietary fund of the District for the year then ended in conformity with accepted in the United States of America.

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In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 11, 2010 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

The District has not presented the Management's Discussion and Analysis required by GAAP that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the basic financial statements.

November 11, 2010

#### Thoreau Water and Sanitation District Proprietary Fund Balance Sheet June 30, 2010

ASSETS		
Current assets:	¢	200 502
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	280,702
Accounts Receivable net of allowance of \$ 1237		31,791
Unbilled receivable		11,196
Inventory		6,027
Prepaid assets		2,416
Total current assets		332,132
Noncurrent assets:		
Cash restricted for customer deposits		69,119
Cash restricted for retirement		29,284
Capital assets:		
Property, Plant & Equip		1,376,996
Less accumulated depreciation		(1,001,002)
Total noncurrent assets		474,397
Total assets	\$	806,529
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Due within one year		
Accounts Payable	\$	15,621
Compensated absences		2,832
Customer deposit payable		16,443
Accrued Payroll & Liab		2,370
Total current liabilities		37,266
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Compensated absences		4,016
Retirement payable		28,973
Total noncurrent liabilities		32,989
Total liabilities		70,255
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets		375,994
Unrestricted		360,280
Total net assets		736,274
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	806,529

The notes to the financial statements are an integrel part of this statement.

#### Thoreau Water and Sanitation District Proprietary Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets For The Year Ended June 30, 2010

Operating revenues:	
Charges for services	\$ 367,351
Miscellaneous Income	 1,326
Total operating revenues	368,677
Operating expenses:	
Salaries	58,311
Contract labor	2,359
Depreciation	28,759
Materials, supplies and maintenance	53,236
Legal & accounting	4,100
Postage	1,542
Retirement fund contributions	2,052
Taxes	13,722
Utilities	30,848
Insurance	8,164
Lab fees	1,039
Dues and filing fees	804
Telephone	1,956
Travel	1,535
Other expenses	2,820
Total operating expenses	 211,247
Operating income (loss)	 157,430
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):	 
Interest income	584
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	 584
Change in net assets	 158,014
Total net assets - beginning	578,260
Total net assets - ending	 736,274

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

#### State of New Mexico Thoreau Water and Sanitation District Proprietary Fund Statement of Cash Flows For the Year ended June 30, 2010

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Received from customer services and fees	\$ 370,595
Cash payments to employees	(56,259)
Paid to suppliers for goods and services	 (110,976)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	 203,360
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Investment income	 584
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	 584
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities: Grant revenue	
Deferred revenue	0
Acquisition of capital assets	0
Payment of interest	 0
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related	
financing activities	 0
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	203,944
Cash and cash equivalents at July 1, 2009	 175,161
Cash and cash equivalents at June 30, 2010	\$ 379,105
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO	
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 157,430
Adjustment to reconcile operating income (loss)	
to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	28,759
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
(increase) decrease in:	
Accounts receivable	1,918
Prepaid insurance	(184)
Unbilled receivable	(484)
Inventory	(241)
Other assets	23
(decrease) increase in:	
Accounts payable	12,363
Payroll & liabilities payable	(3)
Retirement payable	2,052
Compensated absences	1,654
Customer deposits	 73
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ 203,360

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

## 1. Organization and Background

Thoreau Water and Sanitation District (the District) was established under the Laws of 1919, under the provisions of the act now referred to as Chapter 75, Article 1, NMSA 1978. The District operates under the direction of an elected Board of Directors. The Board is required to consist of five members each of which is elected for a period of four years.

The predecessor, Thoreau Mutual Domestic Water Consumers and Sewage Works Association, owned and operated the water and sewage system in the Village of Thoreau from its creation on October 3, 1962. On May 27, 1977, a petition to organize a Thoreau Sanitation District was begun and in 1978 the transfer of the Association to a district was finalized. It is estimated that cash and plant assets of approximately \$240,000 were contributed to the District by McKinley County. These contributions are included in the invested in capital assets.

At the time of the transfer, the District did not and has not refunded memberships paid to the Association.

## 2. <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u>

The summary of significant accounting policies of the District is presented to assist in the understanding of the District's financial statements. The financial statements and notes are the representation of Thoreau Water and Sanitation District's management who is responsible for their integrity and objectivity. The financial statements of the District conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The District's financial statements include all financial information over which the Board of Directors exercises oversight responsibility. Oversight responsibility includes such aspects as appointment of governing body members, designation of management, the ability to significantly influence operations, and accountability for fiscal matters. Based upon the application of these criteria, no component units were included in the financial statements.

#### a. <u>Measurement focus, basis of accounting and financial statement presentation</u>

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary fund financial statements, neither fiduciary funds or component units that are fiduciary in nature are included. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

The proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The government uses a proprietary fund to record all of its financial transactions.

#### 2 <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)</u>

#### a. Measurement focus, basis of accounting and financial statement presentation (continued)

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in the proprietary fund financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Governments also have the option of following subsequent private-sector guidance for their business-type activities and enterprise funds, subject to this same limitation. The government has elected not to follow subsequent private-sector guidance.

Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the District enterprise fund are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expense for the enterprise fund include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

#### b. <u>Reporting Entity</u>

The District includes the accounts of all District operations. The criteria for including organizations within the director's reporting entity primarily include the governing body's ability to exercise oversight responsibility. The most significant manifestation of this ability is financial interdependency. Other manifestations of this ability include, but are not limited to, the selection of governing authority, the designation of management, and the ability to significantly influence operations and accountability for fiscal matters. The other criterion used to evaluate potential component units for inclusion or exclusion form the reporting entity is the existence of special financing arrangements, regardless of whether the District is able to exercise oversight responsibilities. The District in not included in any other governmental reporting entity as defined in Section 2100, *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*.

There were no component units for the District during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, and is not a component unit of any other entity.

#### c. Basis of accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements.

The proprietary fund is accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting. Its revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

## 2. <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)</u>

d. Capital assets (Utility Plant in Service)

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is charged as an expense against operations. Accumulated depreciation is reported on the balance sheet. The capital assets at stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation has been provided over the estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. The District's Policy is to capitalize all disbursements for equipment in excess of \$5,000.

The estimated useful lives assigned to these assets are as follows:

Estimated lives	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	15-35
Water and sewer lines	25
Fences	15
Office equipment	5
Computer Software	3

It is the policy of the District to capitalize the cost of Infrastructure assets (water and sewer lines). Interest incurred during the construction period of major projects is capitalized and depreciated over the estimated lives of the respective assets.

e. <u>Budgets and budgetary accounting</u>

A budget for the Proprietary Fund is prepared by management and approved by the Board of Directors and the State Department of Finance and Administration.

This budget is prepared on time Non-GAAP cash basis, excluding encumbrances, and secures appropriation of funds for only one year. Carryover funds must he re-appropriated in the budget of the subsequent fiscal year. The budget process in time State of New Mexico requires that the beginning cash balance be appropriated in the budget of the subsequent fiscal year.

Actual expenditures may not exceed the budget on a line item basis, i.e., each budgeted expenditure must be within budgeted amounts. Budgets may be amended in two ways. If a budget transfer is necessary within a major category called a 'series', this may be accomplished with only local Board of Directors approval. If a transfer between 'series' or a budget increase is required, approval must also be obtained from State Department of Finance arid Administration.

The budgetary information presented in these financial statements has been amended in accordance with the above procedures.

The District follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- 1. In April or May, the management submits to the Board of Directors a proposed operating budget of the fiscal year commencing the following July. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them, and has approval by the State Department of Finance and Administration.
- 2. In May or June, the budget is approved by the Board of Directors.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)

## e. <u>Budgets and budgetary accounting (continued)</u>

- 3. The board meeting, while not intended for the general public, is open for the general public unless a closed meeting has been called for.
- 4. The management is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any fund; however, the Board of Directors and the State Department of Finance and Administration must approve revisions that alter the total expenditure of the Proprietary Fund.
- 5. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year.
- 6. The budget for the Proprietary Fund is adopted on a basis not consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Encumbrances are treated the same way for GAAP purposes and for budget purposes.

The Board of Directors may approve amendments to the appropriated budget, which are required when a change is made affecting budgeted ending balances. The appropriated budget for the year ended June 30, 2010 had no amendments for the year:

	Original	Final
	Budget	Budget
Proprietary Fund	<u>\$ 270,240</u>	<u>\$ 270,240</u>

f. <u>Inventory</u>

Inventories of materials and supplies are valued at cost (first in, first out). The expense is recognized at the time the individual items are used.

g. <u>Cash</u>

## Cash Equivalents

Interest bearing deposits with maturities of 90 days or less are considered cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows. Restricted cash and cash equivalents are included with unrestricted cash and cash equivalents for cash flow reporting purposes.

## Deposits and investments

The District's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

State statutes authorize the investment of the District's funds in a wide variety of instruments including certificates of deposit and other similar obligations, state investment pool, and money market accounts. The District is also allowed to invest in United States Government obligations. All funds for the District must follow the above investment policies.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)

## g. Cash (continued)

Deposits of funds may he made in interest or non-interest bearing checking accounts in one or more banks or savings and loan associations within time geographical boundaries of the District. Deposits may be made to the extent that they are insured by an agency of the United States or by collateral deposited as security or by bond given by time financial institution.

The rate of interest in non-demand interest-hearing accounts shall be set by the State Board of Finance, but in no case shall the rate of interest be less than one hundred percent of the asked price on United States Treasury bills of the same maturity on time day of deposit.

Excess of funds may be temporarily invested in securities which are issued by the State or by the United States government, or by their departments or agencies, and which are either direct obligations of the State or the United States or are backed by the full faith and credit of those governments.

Investments for the District are reported at fair value.

h. Estimation

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that effect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

## i. <u>Operating Revenues and Expenses</u>

Operating revenues and expenses are those that result from providing services and producing and delivering goods and/or services. It also includes all revenue and expenses not related to capital and related financing, noncapital financing, or investing activities. The District reports expenses related to the use of economic resources.

- j. <u>Grants</u> In the current year the District did not receive any grants.
- k. <u>Restricted and Unrestricted Resources</u> Restricted resources are used for expenses only after unrestricted resources are depleted.

#### 3. <u>Summary of cash accounts</u>

Cash is restricted by the amount of \$98,403, representing restrictions for customer deposits and retirements.

At June 30, 2010, the carrying amount of the District's deposits was \$379,105 and the bank balance was \$338,265. Of this balance \$338,265 was covered by federal depository insurance and therefore, the District was not subject to custodial credit risk.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. NM State Statutes require collateral pledged for deposits in excess of the federal deposit insurance to be delivered, or a joint safekeeping receipt be issued, to the District for at least one half of the amount on deposit with the institution. The schedule listed below will meet the State of New Mexico Office of the State Auditor's requirements in reporting the insured and uninsured portion of deposits:

		Type of	Bank
Depository	Account Name	Account	Balance
First Communit	y Bank		
Interest Bu	usiness Checking	Checking	\$ 175,418
	Total First Bank		175,418
	Less: FDIC coverage		175,418
	Total not federally insured		\$0
Wells Fargo	Retirement Fund I	Savings	\$ 29,284
	Total Savings Wells Fargo		29,284
	Less: FDIC coverage		29,284
	Total not federally insured		\$0
Wells Fargo	Deposit Account	Checking	16,443
Wells Fargo	Deposit Account	Checking	48,001
	Total Wells Fargo Bank		64,444
	Less: FDIC coverage		64,444
	Total not federally insured		0
Pinnacle Bank	Business MMA Account	Savings	\$ 69,119
	Total Pinnacle Bank		69,119
	Less: FDIC coverage		69,119
	Total not federally insured		\$ 0
	Total cash in bank		\$ 338,265
	Add cash on hand		50
	Add outstanding deposits		50,434
	Less outstanding checks		(9,644)
	Reconciled cash balance		\$ 379,105

The types of collateral allowed are limited to direct obligations of the United States Government and all bonds issued by any agency, district or political subdivision of time State of New Mexico. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Authority, public unit deposits are funds owned by the District. Time deposits, savings deposits and interest bearing now accounts of a public unit in an institution in the same state will be insured up to \$250,000 in aggregate and separate from the \$250,000 coverage for public unit demand deposits at the same institution.

## 4. Accounts Receivable

The accounts receivable (customer receivables) reported on the Statement of Net Assets are as follows:

Accounts receivable	\$ 33,028
Estimated uncollectible	1,237
Total receivables	<u>\$ 31,791</u>

## 5. <u>Pension Plan</u>

The District established a defined contribution pension (retirement) plan during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1985. The plan does not appear to be have been properly established or funded. All of the District employees are covered under the plan. Accordingly, all salaries are covered by the plan.

The plan is merely a savings account setup to record the District's contribution for the employees. Currently the amount in this account is \$29,284 earning interest of .04% (see Comments and Recommendations 07-2).

## Retirement eligibility

After one year of employment, all permanent employees of the District are eligible to participate in the plan. Vesting is on a graduated basis; 10% the first year, 20% the second, 50% the third, 75% the fourth and 100% the fifth year. The Board has resolved to contribute 6% of an employee's salary in a segregated savings account for each participating employee. The pension plan is funded monthly. Upon retirement, termination (except for cause), or 50% disability, the employee is entitled to receive the amount in his or her savings account including the interest earned.

#### 6. <u>Changes in Utility Plant in Service</u>

A summary of changes in the utility plant in service for the year ended June 30, 2010 are as follows:

	Balance 06-30-09 Additions Deletions		Balance 06-30-10	
Business type activities:				
Capital assets, not being depreciated	l:			
Land	<u>\$ 153,500</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$ 153,500</u>
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Building	514,543	0	0	514,543
Water and sewer lines	422,249	38,407	0	460,656
Machinery and equipment	151,187	0	(38,407)	112,780
Land improvements	126,924	0	0	126,924
Furniture & equipment	8,593	0	0	8,593
	1,223,496	38,407	(38,407)	1,223,496
Less accumulated depreciation	(972,243)	(28,759)	0	(1,001,002)
Total capital assets,				
being depreciated, net	251,253	9,648	(38,407)	222,494
Business type activities				
capital assets, net	<u>\$ 404,753</u>	<u>\$ 9,648</u>	<u>\$(38,407)</u>	<u>\$ 375,994</u>

Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2010 totaled \$ 28,759.

## 7. <u>Changes in Long Term Debt</u>

As of June 30, 2010 the District did not currently have any long-term debt.

## 8. <u>Compensated Absences</u>

Accumulated unpaid vacation time is accrued in the fiscal year when earned. Compensation for absences due to illness is paid at the discretion of the Board of Directors. This amount paid for compensated absence was \$1,178. A summary of changes in compensated absences follows:

				Amount
	Balance			Balance Due within
	<u>06-30-09</u>	Increases	Decreases	<u>06-30-10</u> <u>One Year</u>
Compensated Absences	<u>\$ 5,194</u>	<u>\$ 2,832</u>	<u>\$ (1,178)</u>	<u>\$ 6,848</u> <u>\$ 2,832</u>

Reduction of debt includes decreases in compensated absences which are not included as expenditures in the operating budget.

## 9. <u>Risk and Related insurance data</u>

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to: general and automobile liabilities, including civil rights (torts); theft of, damage to, and destruction of district property assets; errors; injuries to employees; and natural disasters, all of which are covered by commercial insurance. There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage.

## 10. <u>Commitments and Contingent Liabilities</u>

In the event that waste water in the lagoons contaminates the local ground water, the District has 24 hours to notify the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED). If the District Fails to provide the proper information and submit a corrective action plan within 15 days, The NMED may assess civil penalties up to \$15,000 per day.

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## State of New Mexico Thoreau Water and Sanitation District Proprietary Fund Schedule of Revenues, Expenses Budget and Actual (non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) Year ended June 30, 2010

		Original Approved Budget		Final Approved Budget		Actual	F	Variance Favorable nfavorable)
Revenues:								
Water and Sewer Income	\$	270,240	\$	270,240	\$	368,752	\$	98,512
Total revenues		270,240		270,240		368,752		98,512
Expenses:								
Salaries and wages		67,000		67,000		56,657		10,343
Contract labor		6,000		6,000		2,359		3,641
Materials, supplies, & maintenance		80,000		80,000		38,244		41,756
Legal & accounting		8,500		8,500		4,100		4,400
Retirement plan		3,500		3,500		2,052		1,448
Taxes & Insurance		40,000		40,000		22,090		17,910
Utilities		35,000		35,000		33,708		1,292
Other - Misc	_	30,000		30,000		9,705		20,295
Total operating expenses		270,000		270,000		168,915		101,085
Non-operating revenues and expenses:								
Investment income						584		584
Grant						-		-
Grant expenses						-		-
Reserve Account		(240)		(240)				240
Total non-operating revenue & expenses		(240)		(240)		584		824
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources		<u> </u>		<u> </u>				
over expenses and other uses		-		-		200,421	\$	200,421
Prior year cash balance required								<u> </u>
to balance the budget	\$	-	\$	-				
			Ψ					
<b>RECONCILIATION TO GAAP:</b>								
Depreciation						(28,759)		
Accounts receivable						(1,434)		
Inventory						241		
Prepaid Insurance						161		
Capital Outlay						-		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses						(12,616)		
Change in Net Assets (Exhibit 2)					\$	158,014		
Change in Proc Associs ( DAmon 2)					Ψ	100,014		

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

## FIDEL A. BERNAL, P.C.

#### (505) 256 0404 FAX (505) 256-0400

## REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS (No Material Weaknesses Identified; Significant Deficiencies and Reportable Instances of Noncompliance, and Other Matters Identified)

Hector H. Balderas, New Mexico State Auditor And Members of the Board of Directors Thorcau Water and Sanitation District Thoreau, New Mexico

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities and the budget comparison presented as supplemental information of Thoreau Water and Sanitation District (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2010, and have issued our report thereon dated November 11, 2010. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

## Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow inanagement or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, described in the accompanying *(schedule of findings and responses)* that we consider to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, listed as items 07-1, 07-3 and 08-1. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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## Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 07-2 and 07-3.

The District's responses to the finding identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedulc of findings and responses. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, and the New Mexico State Auditor, the New Mexico Legislature, the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Pip

November 11, 2010

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## **STATE OF NEW MEXICO** THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT SUMMARY OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS June 30, 2010

## Prior Year Audit Findings

## Current Status

07-1	Capital Assets	Repeated in current year
07-2	Defined Contribution Pension Plan	Repeated in current year
07-3	Internal control structure does not allow	
	for adequate segregation of duties	Repeated in current year

Auditor Preparation of Financial Statements 08-1

Repeated in current year

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES June 30, 2010

## **CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS**

## 08-1 Auditor Preparation of Financial Statements

## **Condition**

The District does not have controls over the preparation of the financial statements which would prevent or detect a misstatement in the financial statements. The District's employees and management lack the training and qualifications to apply generally accepted accounting principles in recording the District's financial transactions and preparation of the financial statements.

## <u>Criteria</u>

A system of internal control over financial reporting includes controls over financial statement preparation (including footnote disclosures). Employees and management need to have training and qualifications to apply generally accepted accounting principles in recording the District's financial transactions and preparation of the financial statements. (SAO Rule 2.2.2.8.J.(4) and SAS 112)

#### Cause

The auditor prepared the audited financial statements (including footnote disclosures) because the District's employees and management lack the proper training and qualifications to apply generally accepted accounting principles in recording the District's financial transactions and preparation of the financial statements.

#### Effect

The financial statements (including footnotes) could have misstatements that are not discovered on a timely basis.

#### Recommendation

The District should adopt policies and procedures for controls over financial statement preparation (including footnotes). Also the District should invest in its employees and management so they may receive the proper training and qualifications to apply generally accepted accounting principles in recording the District's financial transactions and preparation of the financial statements.

#### Agency Response:

The District will consider adopting policies and procedures for controls over financial statement preparation (including footnotes).

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES CONTINUED June 30, 2010

## 07-1 Capital Assets

## **Condition**

The District does not maintain a historical listing of capital assets by type and location, i.e.: buildings, vehicles, furniture and fixtures.

## Criteria

Sound accounting and control procedures require that detailed listings of assets be maintained to properly account for and safeguard all the assets of the District (12-6-10 NMSA 1978).

## Cause

The current administration inherited the financial records in the state they are now in. The predecessor, Thoreau Mutual Domestic Water Consumers and Sewage Works Association, owned and operated the water and sewage system in the Village of Thoreau from its creation on October 3, 1962. On May 27, 1977, a petition to organize a Thoreau Sanitation District was begun and in 1978 the transfer of the Association to a district was finalized. It is estimated that cash and plant assets of approximately \$240,000 were contributed to the District by McKinley County.

## Effect

Without the accounting and control procedures over the assets acquired there is the possibility that assets are not being accounted for properly on the financial records and there is the possibility that assets could be misplaced, lost or stolen.

## Recommendation

All assets should be properly accounted for and should be documented on a schedule of property, plant and equipment. The detailed property, plant and equipment listing should be reconciled to the general ledger on a periodic basis.

## Response

Concur: The Board concurs with the Auditor's recommendation and will take steps to correct the above finding. Since the organization inherited the financial records in the condition that they are in, it will seek alternatives to establish beginning balances in the capital asset accounts.

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES CONTINUED June 30, 2010

## 07-2 Defined Contribution Pension Plan

## Condition

The District established a defined contribution pension (retirement) plan during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1985. The plan does not appear to be have been properly established or funded.

## Criteria

Although advance IRS approval isn't required, it's desirable and customary to seek it by requesting a determination letter on special forms issued by IRS. Instead of establishing a plan on its own, an employer can adopt a qualified plan using an IRS-approved master or prototype plan prepared and sponsored by trade or professional associations, banks, insurance companies or regulated investment companies. There are strict rules for funding and control over the funds contributed to the plan.

## Cause

The current administration inherited the plan as it is now established, which they thought was properly established and was being funded correctly.

## Effect

Without a proper defined benefit plan in place the district could face substantial penalties imposed by the IRS.

#### Recommendation

We recommend that the District take steps to correct the plan.

## Response

Concur: The Board concurs with the Auditor's recommendation and will take steps to correct the above finding. Since the current administration inherited the plan as it is now established, it will take steps to correct plan.

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES CONTINUED June 30, 2010

## 07-3 Internal control structure does not allow for adequate segregation of duties

## Condition:

District internal control related to financial reporting lacks segregation of duties between person receiving money and person recording the daily transactions.

## Criteria

Segregation of duties is part sound internal control structure.

## Cause

The district lacks the personnel to segregate duties. So the District's management has accepted the degree of risk associated with a known condition because of cost.

## Effect

Lack of segregation of duties may allow overrides of internal control to the detriment of the overall objectives of the system.

## **Recommendation**

We recommend that the District re-evaluate their internal control environment and/or appoint an audit committee to redesign internal control operations, in order to safeguard the District's assets.

## Response

After a review and discussion in relation to the segregation of duties between receiving money and recording the daily transactions, the Board agreed that at this time with limited funds available for employing extra employees is beyond the Districts means. We will continue to review and look at options so the District may in the future be able to improve in the financial internal control.

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO THOREAU WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT OTHER DISCLOSURES June 30, 2010

## Exit Conference

An exit conference was held at Thoreau Water and Sanitation District on November 19, 2010:

Representing Thoreau Water and Sanitation District were:

James Herman Sherry Botkin President Office Manager

Representing the firm of Fidel A. Bernal, P.C. was:

Fidel A. Bernal, CPA

## Report Drafting

The financial statements, accompanying notes, and independent auditor's reports were drafted by Fidel A. Bernal, P.C.; however, maintaining the audited books and records is the responsibility of management. Accordingly, management is responsible for ensuring that these books and records adequately support the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and that records are current and in balance.